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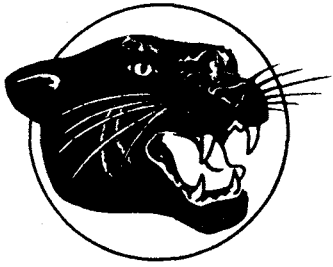
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# ***Panther Sports News***

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April 1, 1981

LS-AS-Track

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University track coach Neil Moore hopes the Panthers' successful indoor season sets the tone for the upcoming outdoor session.

He'll get his first chance to find out Saturday (April 4) as the Panthers host the annual EIU Invitational at O'Brien Stadium. Field events start at 11:30 a.m. with the high hurdles scheduled for noon. The 1600 m. relay will complete the day at 4 p.m.

Ten teams are scheduled to compete although Moore says, "we might get a couple late entries." Those competing are Illinois Benedictine, Augustana, Northern Illinois, Western Illinois, Maryville College plus DuPage, Lincoln Land, Harper and Triton junior colleges.

"This will be a non-scoring meet. The coaches would rather not have to double up people just to obtain points . . . the primary objective is to qualify individuals for the nationals.

"With the rest of the month heavy with relay meets, we don't have that many opportunities to get qualifiers . . . for instance, we don't plan to run a varsity team in the mile relay.

"Instead, we're getting all our sprinters into their specialities so we can find out who we can rely on, plus hopefully qualify some people," Moore explained.

He already knows two of his stalwarts will be distance ace Joe Sheeran (Grayslake-Lake Villa), who was EIU's first ever indoor All-American, and hurdler Augie Oruwari (Nigeria).

An additional plus outdoors will be the availability of weightman Paul James (Mahomet-Seymour). He's the top returning scorer from last spring's outdoor season, and was 8th in the nation in the discus.

-more-

"Paul is a contender for the national championship . . . he's stronger, his technique has improved, and I think will be right in there."

James threw the discus 170 plus feet, less than three feet from the school record.

Rick Francis (Oakland) will score in the hammer, and could break the school mark of 159-9½. "Last year was a learning experience for Rick . . . now that he knows the event I think we'll see some good distances."

Moore claims the javelin is the "mystery event" although Greg Weber (Charleston) may emerge as the No. 1 man.

"We do have quite a few people capable in the 3000 steeplechase . . . Mike Beresford (Danville), Joel McKinney (Niantic-Harristown) to name a couple.

"Larry Schuldt (Rock Falls) is the main man, of course, but we won't run him in the steeple in this first meet. We're hoping his back can withstand the rigors of this event."

Moore also cited the 4 x 100m. relay as one of the spring strengths. "We have five solid people . . . Oruwari will lead off followed by Efrem Horton (Rockford-Auburn) and then Ken Snell (Chicago-Harlan) or Dwayne Brown (Chicago-Kenwood) with (Claude) Magee (Clermont, FL) anchoring.

"With five people, we have an alternate in case someone gets hurt . . . these five are going to work together constantly which means an awfully lot in such a technical event."